

P. INT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

United States Patent and Trademark
Office
(Box PCT)
Crystal Plaza 2
Washington, DC 20231
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

05 August 1999 (05.08.99)

International application No.

PCT/US97/23363

Applicant's or agent's file reference

RCA 88796

International filing date (day/month/year)

18 December 1997 (18.12.97)

Priority date (day/month/year)

Applicant

FORLER, Joseph, Wayne

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:



in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

08 July 1999 (08.07.99)



in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

Lazar Joseph Panakal

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

T/US 97/23363

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 6 H04N7/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 97 42759 A (OKTV INC) 13 November 1997 see page 18, line 14 - page 19, line 33; figure 2 see page 23, line 24 - page 24, line 35 see page 2, line 13 - line 22 ---	1-3, 11, 13
A	US 5 550 575 A (WEST BRETT ET AL) 27 August 1996 see column 6, line 63 - column 7, line 40 see column 9, line 1 - line 15 see column 9, line 66 - column 10, line 26 ---	1, 3, 7-10
A	EP 0 777 385 A (IBM) 4 June 1997 see page 5, line 32 - line 42 ---	1-3, 11
A	WO 97 23996 A (BLOCK ROBERT S) 3 July 1997 see page 28, line 21 - page 29, line 3 ---	1, 3, 4
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 July 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/08/1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Beaudoin, 0

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 97/23363

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 056 139 A (LITTLEFIELD DAVID E) 8 October 1991 see column 5, line 1 - line 36 -----	1, 13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 97/23363

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9742759	A	13-11-1997	AU	2935397 A	26-11-1997
US 5550575	A	27-08-1996	NONE		
EP 0777385	A	04-06-1997	JP	9238321 A	09-09-1997
			US	5757417 A	26-05-1998
WO 9723996	A	03-07-1997	AU	1423497 A	17-07-1997
US 5056139	A	08-10-1991	JP	4230135 A	19-08-1992

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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REC'D 17 AUG 1999

WIPO PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RCA 88796	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US97/23363	International filing date (day/month/year) 18/12/1997	Priority date (day/month/year) 18/12/1997
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N7/16		
Applicant THOMSON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, INC. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 08/07/1999	Date of completion of this report 13. 08. 99
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	Authorized officer McGrath, S Telephone No. (+49-89) 2399



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US97/23363

1. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-13 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-13 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US97/23363

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Concerning Point V - Reasoned Statement

WO-A-97/42759 discloses one of the known techniques for tv censorship/parental guidance whereby the broadcasting transmits auxiliary data including content ratings for the programs on each channel. The user can then program the tv to blank out unsuitable material which has certain ratings.

US-A-5 550 575 discloses a similar technique to the one mentioned above.

EP-A-0 777 385 does disclose the problem of "channel surfing", ie changing channels repeatedly to overcome picture blanking, with regard to a parental guidance type screening system. Here, however, the solution is different in that even if the auxiliary data has not yet been received after a channel change a "general category rating" stored well in advance is used to provide provisional screening and blanking until the detailed info is received with the tv signal.

Whilst the problem underlying the invention is known from EP'385 cited above, none of the available prior art documents discloses the features claimed in claim 1 providing the particular solution, namely by identifying a predetermined sequence of signal channel selections and then causing then "reducing user access". This solution goes in a completely different direction from EP'385.

The subject-matter of claim 1 would therefore appear to meet the requirements of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT.

Claims 2-13 contain modifications of the inventive idea embodied in claim 1 and would also appear to meet the requirements of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT.

Concerning Point VII - Certain Defects

1. The requirements of Rule 6.3(b) PCT are not met since the independent claims are not properly cast in the two part form, with those features which in combination are part of the prior art being placed in the preamble.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US97/23363

2. The requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) & (iii) PCT are not met since the documents mentioned above are not acknowledged in the description and technical problems and any advantageous effects are not set out in comparison to this background art.

Concerning Point VIII - Certain Observations

1. The subject-matter of claim 1 lacks clarity and therefore does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

In line 4 it would appear that the word "a" before "signal" should be deleted - cf. "selections" in line 5.

2. The subject-matter of claim 13 lacks clarity and therefore does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

Claim 13 appears to lack a full stop at the very end.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

DEC 17 1999

DPK

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

To:

Tripoli, Joseph S. et al
THOMSON MULTIMEDIA LICENSING INC.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08543
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

13. 08. 99

Applicant's or agent's file reference
RCA 88796

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/US97/23363

International filing date (day/month/year)
18/12/1997

Priority date (day/month/year)
18/12/1997

Applicant

THOMSON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, INC. et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465

Authorized officer

Stannartz, B

Tel. (+49-89) 2399-8242



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RCA 88796	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US97/23363	International filing date (day/month/year) 18/12/1997	Priority date (day/month/year) 18/12/1997
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N7/16		
Applicant THOMSON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, INC. et al.		

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- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 08/07/1999	Date of completion of this report 13. 08. 99
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	Authorized officer McGrath, S Telephone No. (+49-89) 2399 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US97/23363

I. Basis of the report

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1-13 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US97/23363

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims 1-13
	No: Claims
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims 1-13
	No: Claims
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-13
	No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Concerning Point V - Reasoned Statement

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The subject-matter of claim 1 would therefore appear to meet the requirements of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT.

Claims 2-13 contain modifications of the inventive idea embodied in claim 1 and would also appear to meet the requirements of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT.

Concerning Point VII - Certain Defects

1. The requirements of Rule 6.3(b) PCT are not met since the independent claims are not properly cast in the two part form, with those features which in combination are part of the prior art being placed in the preamble.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US97/23363

2. The requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) & (iii) PCT are not met since the documents mentioned above are not acknowledged in the description and technical problems and any advantageous effects are not set out in comparison to this background art.

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1. The subject-matter of claim 1 lacks clarity and therefore does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

In line 4 it would appear that the word "a" before "signal" should be deleted - cf. "selections" in line 5.

2. The subject-matter of claim 13 lacks clarity and therefore does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

Claim 13 appears to lack a full stop at the very end.

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RCA 88796	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 97/ 23363	International filing date (day/month/year) 18/12/1997	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)
Applicant THOMSON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, INC. et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (see Box I).

2. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing** and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing

☐ filed with the international application.

☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application.

☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.

☐ Transcribed by this Authority

4. With regard to the **title**, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International Search Report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is:

Figure No. 3 ☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ None of the figures.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☒ because this figure better characterizes the invention.